

REMARKS

Claims 10 - 12 and 14 have been allowed. Claims 5, 9, 16 and 17 have been objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. The remaining claims have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) or §103(a).

In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 5. Independent claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 16. Dependent 2, 5, 7 and 16 are redundant or inconsistent in light of these amendments, and therefore have been canceled. The dependencies of claims 3, 4, and 6 have been amended accordingly.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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